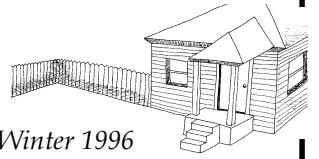


Nature's Call

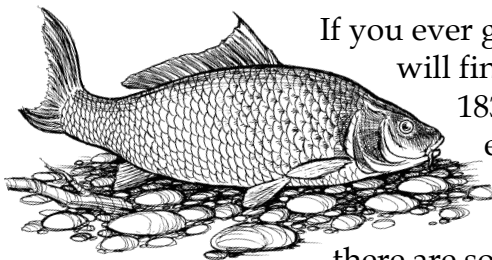
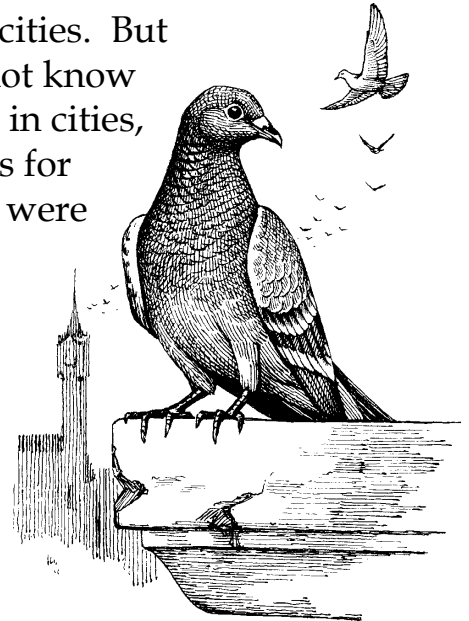
An Activity Newsletter for Kids by Utah's Project WILD--Winter 1996



Life in the Big City!!

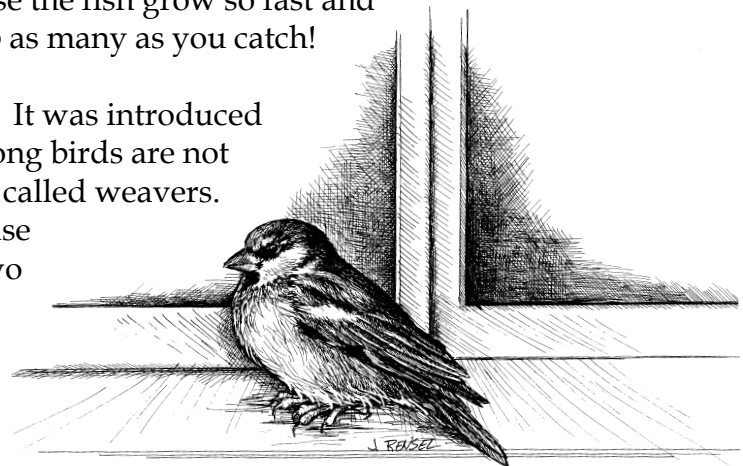
Most of the people who live in Utah, live in cities. But many of the people who live in cities do not know that there are many wild animals that live in cities, too! Some of the wildlife relies on humans for food, water, shelter or space. In fact, some wild animals were brought from other countries and released in our cities many years ago. If you live in a city you probably recognize some of the animals in this issue of *Nature's Call*.

Pigeons live in almost all cities of the world. Pigeons are not native to North America. They are called rock doves in their native country of England. Pigeons were brought to this country by colonists in the 1600s! These colorful birds are very good at learning to find food and have adapted to life in the city.



If you ever go fishing in any of the rivers that flow through our cities you will find the amazing carp. Brought to this country from Eurasia in 1831, the carp was soon planted in waters all over Utah. Carp eat everything from insects to water plants and grow very fast with fish weighing 20 pounds! And each female can lay 500,000 eggs a year. Because the fish grow so fast and there are so many, you can keep as many as you catch!

The house sparrow can be found in most cities. It was introduced from Europe to Salt Lake City in 1873. These song birds are not really sparrows, but belong to a family of birds called weavers. Weavers are known for their sturdy nests. House sparrows build nests which are used to raise two or three clutches of eggs each year. In winter, flocks of house sparrows are often heard chirping in bushes. Some scientists believe the sparrows are sharing information about food sources when they gather in loud flocks.



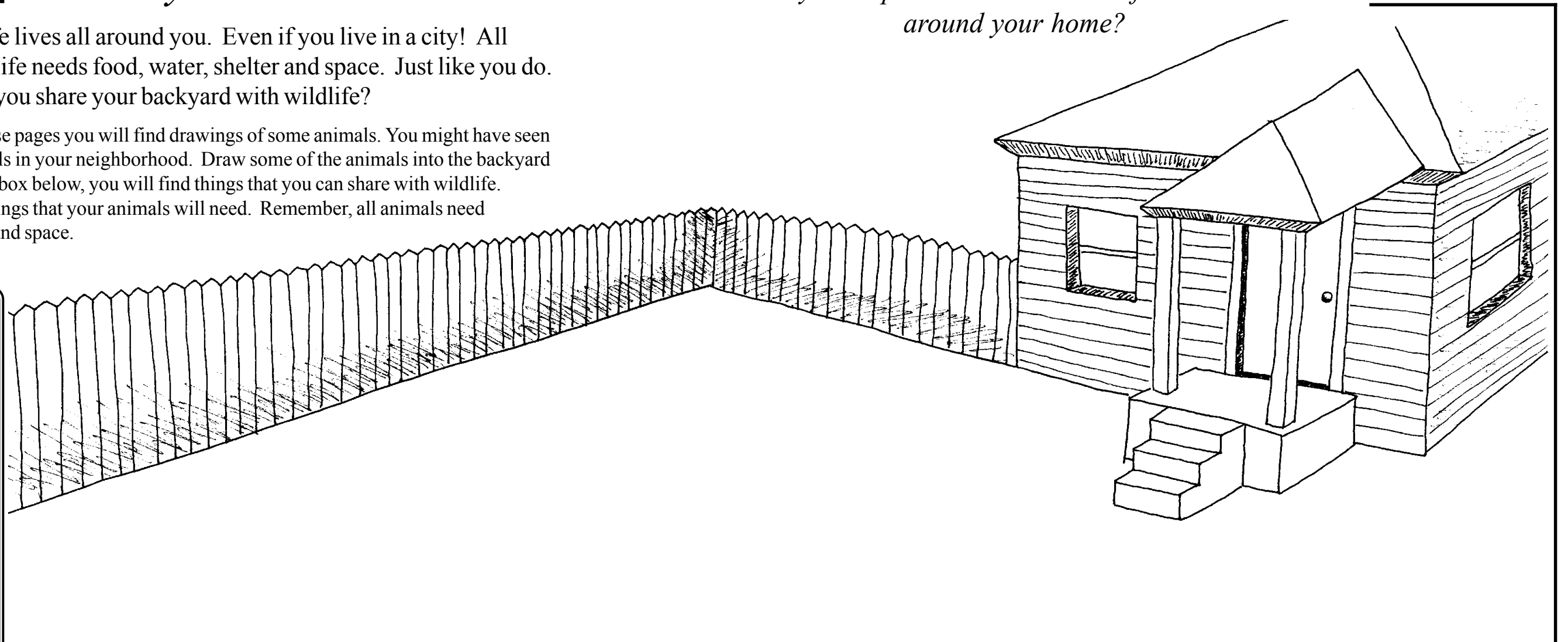
You can find many different wild animals in the cities of Utah. Turn the page to discover more about wildlife in our cities.

Be My Guest!

Wildlife lives all around you. Even if you live in a city! All wildlife needs food, water, shelter and space. Just like you do. Can you share your backyard with wildlife?

At the bottom of these pages you will find drawings of some animals. You might have seen some of these animals in your neighborhood. Draw some of the animals into the backyard of this house. In the box below, you will find things that you can share with wildlife. Draw some of the things that your animals will need. Remember, all animals need food, water, shelter and space.

Can you help make these animals feel welcome around your home?



Trees and shrubs provide animals with shelter and food.



All animals need water.



Bat boxes provide much needed roosting sites.



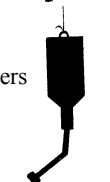
Bird boxes provide shelter and nesting places.



Bird feeders provide food in the winter.



Hummingbird feeders can help hungry hummingbirds.



Flowers provide food to butterflies and hummingbirds.



Juncos like to eat seeds from a bird feeder.



Great horned owls use other bird's nests and eat mice.



Butterflies like to feed on the nectar in flowers.



If you have a bird feeder, peregrine falcons will come to catch the songbirds feeding there.



Frogs and toads like moist, protected areas.



Garter snakes find food at the edges of ponds and streams.



Rabbits need brush piles for protection and grasses for food.



Bats need warm, dry places to roost during the day.



Hummingbirds sip nectar from flowers or sugar water from a hummingbird feeder.



Complete this urban food web. Write the name of the animal in the blanks below each box: **pigeon, skunk, house sparrow, snail, raccoon, great horned owl, fly larva, carp, peregrine falcon.** Follow the flow of energy by coloring the sun and arrows **red**. Now, color the boxes and circles. **Green** is for producers. **Blue** is for consumers. **Yellow** is for decomposers.

